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Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 19 December 2017

[*on the report of the Third Committee (A/72/431)*]

72/146. Policies and programmes involving youth

The General Assembly,

Recalling the World Programme of Action for Youth, adopted by the General Assembly in its resolutions 50/81 of 14 December 1995 and 62/126 of 18 December 2007,

Recalling also the Universal Declaration of Human Rights[1] and relevant international human rights instruments, in particular the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights[2] and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[2]

Recalling further General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which for the first time the Assembly recognized children and youth as agents of change, and recognizing that the Sustainable Development Goals are integrated, indivisible and global in nature, and therefore that all of them apply to youth,

Recalling that youth development is not only critical to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda but that it is also recognized in other development frameworks, including the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development,[3] the Istanbul Declaration[4] and the Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries for the Decade 2011–2020,[5] the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway,[6] the New York Declaration for Refugees

[1] Resolution 217 A (III).
[2] See resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.
[3] Resolution 69/313, annex.
[4] *Report of the Fourth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, Istanbul, Turkey, 9–13 May 2011* (A/CONF.219/7), chap. I.
[5] Ibid., chap. II.
[6] Resolution 69/15, annex.

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and Migrants,[7] the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III)[8] and the outcome of the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the appraisal of the United Nations Global Plan of Action to Combat Trafficking in Persons,[9]

Noting the convening of the nineteenth World Festival of Youth and Students, held in Sochi, Russian Federation, from 14 to 22 October 2017, which emphasized the importance of promoting international and intercultural youth cooperation around the idea of peace and solidarity,

Welcoming the effective participation of youth representatives in national delegations at the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions and relevant United Nations conferences,

Acknowledging that the current generation of youth is the largest one ever, and in this context reaffirming the importance of involving youth, and youth-led and youth-focused organizations, in the work of the United Nations at the national, regional and international levels in all matters of concern to them, including in the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,

Recognizing that a youthful population creates significant opportunities for development, and underlining in this regard the importance of the creation by Member States of appropriate policy environments, in collaboration with the United Nations system, in order to realize a demographic dividend driven by large proportions of young people moving into the labour force, while adopting an inclusive results-based approach to development planning and implementation in accordance with national priorities and legislation, and stressing in this regard the decision of the African Union to proclaim 2017 the Year of Harnessing the Demographic Dividend through Investments in Youth,

Affirming that generating decent work and quality employment for youth is one of the biggest challenges that needs to be tackled, and emphasizing the priority areas of the World Programme of Action for Youth linked to the employability of youth, including education, health and access to information and technology, and bearing in mind that over 71 million young people are unemployed and 156 million working youth are in poverty, including extreme poverty,

Emphasizing the need to empower youth in order to achieve sustainable development, including poverty eradication, and stressing, in this regard, the commitment in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to substantially reduce by 2020 the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training and to develop and operationalize a global strategy for youth employment, and in this regard takes note of the call for action of the International Labour Organization on the youth employment crisis and the Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth,

Emphasizing also the need to substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship, and to ensure, by 2020, that all youth and a substantial proportion of adults, both men and women, achieve literacy and numeracy,

Recalling that Member States have an important role in promoting and protecting the rights and in meeting the needs and aspirations of youth, including youth with disabilities, and recognizing that the ways in which young people are able

[7] Resolution 71/1.
[8] Resolution 71/256, annex.
[9] Resolution 72/1.

to fulfil their potential as agents of change will influence social and economic conditions and the well-being and livelihood of future generations,

Recognizing the important and positive contribution of young people in efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security,

Recalling the Lisbon Declaration on Youth Policies and Programmes, adopted at the World Conference of Ministers Responsible for Youth in 1998, and emphasizing the importance of the twentieth anniversary of the Conference, to be marked in 2018, and the need for a meaningful assessment of the progress made in youth development and the challenges that remain,

Welcoming the role of the Envoy of the Secretary-General on Youth and her work in addressing the needs of youth, as well as, inter alia, as a harmonizer with different United Nations entities, Governments, civil society, youth organizations, academia and media towards enhancing, empowering and strengthening the position of young people within and outside of the United Nations system,

1. *Takes note with appreciation* of the report of the Secretary-General on youth development links to sustainable development;[10]

2. *Reaffirms* the World Programme of Action for Youth,[11] and emphasizes that all 15 priority areas of the Programme of Action are interrelated and mutually reinforcing;

3. *Also reaffirms* the commitment of Heads of State and Government in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[12] to leave no one behind, including youth, and the importance of implementing, following up and reviewing strategies that adequately address youth issues and give young people everywhere real opportunities for full, effective, constructive and sustainable participation in society;

4. *Reiterates* that the primary responsibility for implementing the World Programme of Action for Youth lies with Member States, and urges Governments, in consultation with youth, youth-led and youth-focused organizations and other relevant stakeholders, to develop integrated, holistic and inclusive youth policies and programmes, as well as coherent cross-sectoral efforts, based on the Programme of Action and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and to evaluate them regularly as part of the follow-up action on and implementation of the Programme of Action at all levels;

5. *Calls upon* Member States to consider, on a voluntary basis, the indicators proposed in the report of the Secretary-General[13] for their selection and adaptation in monitoring and assessing the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth, giving particular attention to young women, marginalized groups and young people belonging to vulnerable groups or in vulnerable situations, taking into account the national social and economic circumstances in each country;

6. *Stresses* the need to strengthen and support the capacity of national statistical offices to design, collect and analyse data disaggregated by age so as to contribute effectively to follow-up, reporting and accountability for the achievement of the youth dimensions of the 2030 Agenda;

7. *Urges* Member States to promote equal opportunities for all, to eliminate all forms of discrimination against young people, including that based on race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property,

[10] A/72/190.

[11] Resolution 50/81, annex, and resolution 62/126, annex.

[12] Resolution 70/1.

[13] E/CN.5/2013/8.

birth or other status, and to foster social integration for social groups such as young persons with disabilities, young migrants and indigenous youth on an equal basis with others;

8. *Reiterates* that the eradication of poverty, hunger and malnutrition, in particular as they affect children and youth, is crucial for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, recalls the commitment to eradicate poverty and promote sustained economic growth, sustainable development and global prosperity for all, including the strengthening of international cooperation through the fulfilment of all official development assistance commitments and the transfer of appropriate technology and capacity-building with regard to youth, and the need for urgent action on all sides, including more ambitious national development strategies, efforts and investment in youth, backed by increased international support and, inter alia, by providing youth with a nurturing environment for the full realization of their human rights and capabilities, in order to realize the opportunity of the demographic dividend offered by the largest number of young people ever in the history of humankind, and calls for the increased participation of youth, youth-led and youth-focused organizations in the development of such national development strategies;

9. *Emphasizes* the role of quality health education and literacy in improving health outcomes over a lifetime, and in this regard encourages its promotion by Member States among young people, including through evidence-based education and information strategies and programmes, both in and out of school, and through public campaigns, and to increase the access of youth to affordable, safe, effective, sustainable and youth-friendly health-care services and social services, safe drinking water and adequate and equitable sanitation and hygiene, without discrimination, by paying special attention to and raising awareness regarding sports and physical activity, nutrition, including eating disorders, obesity, mental health and well-being, the prevention, control and effects of communicable and non-communicable diseases, the prevention of adolescent pregnancies, and sexual and reproductive health care, and recognizes the need to develop safe, affordable and youth-friendly counselling and substance abuse prevention programmes;

10. *Calls upon* Member States to accelerate efforts to scale up scientifically accurate age-appropriate comprehensive education, relevant to cultural contexts, that provides adolescent girls and boys and young women and men, in and out of school, consistent with their evolving capacities, with information on sexual and reproductive health, gender equality and the empowerment of women, human rights, physical, psychological and pubertal development, and power in relationships between women and men, to enable them to build self-esteem and informed decision-making, communication and risk reduction skills and to develop respectful relationships, in full partnership with young persons, parents, legal guardians, caregivers, educators and health-care providers;

11. *Emphasizes* that addressing the specific needs of young people in the response to HIV and AIDS is a key element in efforts to achieve an AIDS-free generation, and urges Member States to develop accessible, available and affordable primary health-care services of high quality, including sexual and reproductive health care, as well as education programmes, including those related to sexually transmitted diseases, including HIV and AIDS, and to strengthen efforts in this regard, including by ensuring the active involvement of young people living with or affected by HIV in the response;

12. *Also emphasizes* the right to education, recognizes that investment in universal, quality and inclusive education and training is the most important policy investment that States can make to ensure the immediate and long-term development of youth, and reiterates that access to inclusive, equitable and quality formal and

non-formal education, at all levels, including, as appropriate, catch-up and literacy education, including in information and communications technologies for those who did not receive formal education, information and communications technologies and volunteerism are important factors that enable young people to acquire the relevant skills and to build their capacities, including for employability and entrepreneurial development, and to gain decent and productive work, and calls upon Member States to take the actions necessary to ensure that young people have access to such services and opportunities, which will allow them to be drivers of development;

13. *Calls upon* Member States to accelerate their efforts to close the digital divide among youth by ensuring that information and communications technologies are fully and appropriately integrated into education and training at all levels, including in the development of curricula, teacher training and institutional administration and management, and in support of the concept of lifelong learning;

14. *Urges* Member States to address the high rates of youth unemployment, underemployment, vulnerable employment, informal employment and young people not in employment, education or training by developing and implementing targeted and integrated local and national youth employment policies for inclusive, sustainable and innovative job creation, improved employability, skills development and vocational training to facilitate the transition from school to work and to increase the prospects for integrating youth in the sustainable labour market, and through increased entrepreneurship, including the development of networks of young entrepreneurs at the local, national, regional and global levels that foster knowledge among young people about their rights and responsibilities in society, and encourages Member States to invest in education, support lifelong learning and provide social protection for all youth and to request donors, specialized United Nations entities and the private sector to continue to provide assistance to Member States, including technical and funding support, as appropriate;

15. *Also urges* Member States to address the challenges faced by girls and young women, as well as gender stereotypes that perpetuate all forms of discrimination and violence against girls and young women, including harmful practices, and the stereotypical roles of men and women that hinder social development, by reaffirming the commitment to the empowerment of women and gender equality and the human rights of all women and girls, and to engage, educate, encourage and support men and boys to take responsibility for their behaviour in this regard, including their sexual and reproductive behaviour;

16. *Further urges* Member States to mainstream a gender perspective into all development efforts, recognizing that the achievement of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls is critical for achieving sustainable development and for efforts to combat hunger, poverty and disease, and to strengthen policies and programmes that seek to improve, ensure and broaden the full, effective and structured participation of young women in all spheres of political, economic, social and cultural life as equal partners, and to improve their access to all resources needed for the full exercise of all of their human rights and fundamental freedoms by removing persistent barriers, including by providing access to quality education at all levels, ensuring equal access to full and productive employment and decent work and strengthening their economic independence;

17. *Encourages* Member States to take measures that minimize the negative effects of globalization and maximize its benefits, and emphasizes the importance of a fair globalization in offering relevant education and training for young people in order that they may reach their full personal development and that enable their access to decent jobs and better employment opportunities in order to meet the needs of changing labour markets and enable young migrants to enjoy their human rights;

18. *Recognizes* that the international community faces increasing challenges posed by climate change and the loss of biodiversity, which have increased vulnerabilities and inequalities with direct and indirect implications for the well-being of youth and which could make youth, particularly in developing countries and small island developing States, vulnerable to their adverse impacts, including through suffering disproportionately in labour markets in times of crisis created by climate change, and calls for the enhanced cooperation of and concerted action by Member States with youth in order to address those challenges, taking into account the positive role that the education of youth can play in that respect;

19. *Also recognizes* that the sharing of family responsibilities creates an enabling family environment for the empowerment of youth, which contributes to development, that youth make a significant contribution to the welfare of their families, and that particular attention must be paid to solutions to youth unemployment in order to generate the human and social capital that is essential for social and economic development;

20. *Further recognizes* the importance of strengthening intergenerational partnerships and solidarity among generations, and in this regard recognizes the importance of opportunities for voluntary, constructive and regular interaction between young people and older generations in the family, the workplace and society at large;

21. *Recognizes* all recent efforts to promote the youth and peace and security agenda, and calls upon Member States and relevant United Nations organs and entities to consider ways to increase the meaningful and inclusive participation of youth in conflict prevention and resolution, peacebuilding, post-conflict processes and humanitarian action, as well as to take concrete measures to further assist youth in armed conflict situations, in accordance with the World Programme of Action for Youth, and to encourage the involvement of youth, where appropriate, in activities concerning the protection of children and youth affected by armed conflict situations, and recognizes the importance of protecting schools and universities from military use in contravention of international humanitarian law;

22. *Urges* Member States to take concerted action, in conformity with international law, to remove obstacles to the full realization of the rights of young people living under foreign occupation, colonial rule and in other areas of conflict or post-conflict situations in order to promote the achievement of the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

23. *Also urges* Member States to take effective measures, in conformity with international law, to protect young people, including youth in marginalized groups affected or exploited by terrorism;

24. *Recognizes* that youth participation is important for development, and urges Member States and United Nations entities, in consultation with youth and youth-led and youth-focused organizations, to explore and promote new avenues for the full, effective, structured and sustainable participation of young people and youth-led organizations in relevant decision-making processes and monitoring, in all spheres of political, economic, social and cultural life, including in designing and implementing policies, programmes and initiatives, in particular, while implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

25. *Urges* Member States to consider including youth delegates in their delegations at all relevant discussions in the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council and its functional commissions and relevant United Nations conferences, as appropriate, bearing in mind the principles of gender balance and non-discrimination, and emphasizes that such youth representatives should be selected

through a transparent process that ensures that they have a suitable mandate to represent young people in their countries;

26. *Calls upon* the United Nations Programme on Youth to continue to act as the focal point within the United Nations system for promoting further collaboration and coordination on youth-related matters;

27. *Calls upon* donors, including Member States and intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, to actively contribute to the United Nations Youth Fund in order to facilitate the participation of youth representatives from developing countries in the activities of the United Nations, taking into account the need for greater geographical balance in terms of youth representation, as well as to accelerate the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth and to support the production of the *World Youth Report*, and in this regard requests the Secretary-General to take appropriate action to encourage contributions to the Fund;

28. *Acknowledges* the increased collaboration through the Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development in developing the United Nations System-wide Action Plan on Youth, requests United Nations entities, within existing resources, to continue their coordination towards a more coherent, comprehensive and integrated approach to youth development, calls upon United Nations entities and relevant partners to support national, regional and international efforts in addressing challenges hindering youth development, and in this regard encourages close collaboration with Member States as well as other relevant stakeholders, including civil society;

29. *Recognizes* the role of the Envoy of the Secretary-General on Youth and her task of bringing the voices of young people to the United Nations system in the areas of participation, advocacy, partnerships and harmonization identified in her workplan, and encourages the Envoy to continue to work closely with Governments, United Nations entities, civil society, youth organizations, academia and the media by empowering and strengthening the position of young people within and outside of the United Nations system, including by conducting country visits, upon the request of the Member States concerned, and calls upon Member States and United Nations entities to support, as appropriate, the Envoy in her efforts to advance the situation of youth globally;

30. *Requests* the Secretary-General to submit a report to the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session on the implementation of the present resolution, to be prepared in consultation with Member States as well as the relevant specialized agencies, funds, programmes and regional commissions, taking into account the work done by the United Nations system, and encourages the Secretariat to consult, as appropriate, with youth-led and youth-focused organizations.

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